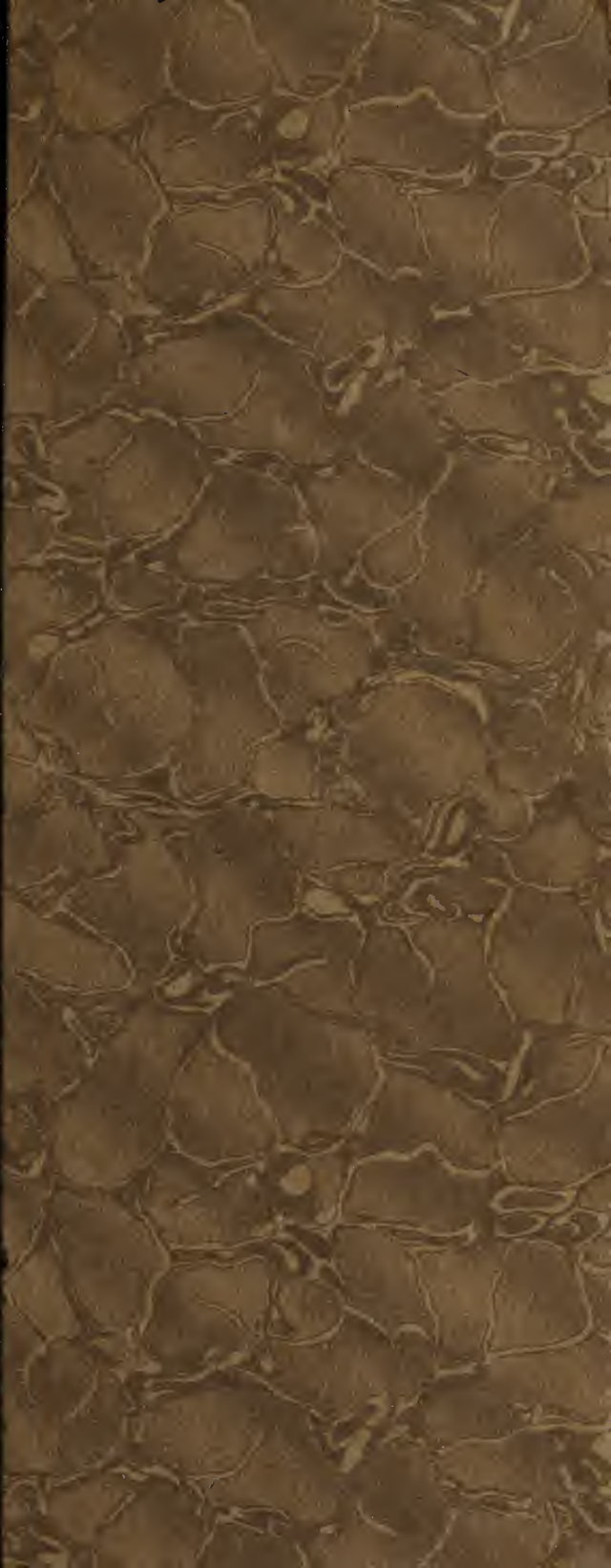


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THE PEACEFUL END OF THE PERFECT MAN.

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A

DISCOURSE;

DELIVERED IN LEBANON,

AT

THE FUNERAL OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

JONATHAN TRUMBULL,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

Who died August 7th, 1809, aged 69.

By ZEBULON ELY, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN THE SOUTH SOCIETY.



HARTFORD :

PRINTED BY HUDSON AND GOODWIN.

.....
1809.

TO the dear surviving family of his late EXCELLENCY,
the following Discourse, published at their request, is most
respectfully dedicated,

By their affectionate friend
and humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

FUNERAL SERMON.

PSALM xxxvii. 37.

Mark the perfect man and behold the upright : for the end of that man is peace.

STRICTLY speaking there is no perfection in our world, “ For there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not.” In a qualified sense however, or, in comparison with others, there are those who may be said to be perfect. The man who is united to Christ by a living faith so as to be entitled to his righteousness for justification—the man who is renewed and sanctified by the holy spirit; and of consequence walks in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, he is the perfect man. He is the upright man. He has respect to all the commandments of God, is the servant of Christ, and doeth the will of his father in Heaven. It is a true christian, my brethren, that is here described. It is a disciple, friend and follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is one who possesses *His* spirit, and of course imitates *His* example; one who does justly, loves mercy and walks humbly with his God. To such a character our attention is called in the text. Mark the perfect man and behold the upright : for the end of that man is peace. Would you know the value of the life of any man? Look to its end. See the issue of the course he takes, and from that

form your judgment of its worth. The end of some men; alas! the end of many men, is the reverse of peace. They live without God in the world. They neglect the great salvation. They will not have the Lord Jesus Christ to reign over them. They have no interest in his justifying righteousness. They have not the spirit of Christ. They live a life of disobedience to God. Instead of doing justly as it respects the first and great commandment, they withhold their all from that glorious being to whom their all is due. They never give the blessed God their heart. Instead of observing the second great branch of the law, the course of their life is directed by a selfish temper. They may exercise sympathy. They may give alms to be seen of men, but they do not love mercy, for they have no compassion on their own souls, nor on the souls of their fellow-sinners. They do not walk humbly with God, for the pride of their heart was never subdued. They exalt self above the divine majesty. They dispute the right of supremacy with Jehovah, and were it in their power, they would willingly dethrone the Almighty. Can the end of such persons be peace? Verily, if they die undisturbed, if, on their dying beds, the horrors of divine wrath do not seize upon them; it must be imputed to an awful delusion or to amazing stupidity. In the light of divine revelation, view the end of the wicked, and learn to make a proper estimate of their life. With this, contrast the end of the perfect, the upright man. You will find it as desirable as the other is dreadful. Hence learn what course it is your wis-

dom to pursue. Would you die the death of the righteous? you must live the life of the righteous; for, generally speaking, as men live so they die. Some may be called at the eleventh hour, or, like the thief on the cross, obtain mercy in their last moments; but such instances are rare. To live in the neglect of religion to old age, or to postpone the concerns of eternity to a sick bed and a dying hour, is awful presumption. Against this we are cautioned in the text. Would you know the character of the man, whose end is peaceful and glorious? It is the perfect, the upright man. Mark him. Behold him and imitate his example. He will die in peace. Thro' the atoning blood of the lamb his peace is made with God. Having endeavoured as far as possible to live in peace and to promote peace among men, he dies peaceably disposed towards all. Wouldst thou come to such a blessed end, O man! be perfect, be upright.

The words of the text will doubtless, be judged applicable to that excellent personage whose remains are before us. A full delineation of the character of Governor Trumbull will not be attempted in this place. That must be left to an abler hand; or rather, it must be left to the decision of the great day. Yet when one is removed from our world who hath acted such a distinguished, worthy part, it is reasonably expected that some special attention should be paid to the event. To exhibit a general view of his character, appears to be a duty of gratitude and praise to the Lord our God, who raised him up, supported, and preserved him. For we are never to forget that the

greatest and best of men are no more than what God is pleased to make them ; and that to him is all the glory of their achievements due. Exhibiting to public view the example of such persons may also be a duty, as it is calculated powerfully to stimulate the living to go and do likewise. Descended from religious parents, he was in infancy devoted to God, and brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This we consider as laying the foundation of his eminent usefulness.

Having completed his education and received the honors of the University at Cambridge, for some years in the early part of life he pursued the mercantile business. But God had designed him for more important services. In the arduous contest between Great-Britain and the American colonies he was called to act a distinguished part. During that trying scene, when the lives, liberty and property of thousands were in jeopardy ; he constituted one of the family of the commander in chief and was his Secretary. At the conclusion of the revolutionary war, with other worthy citizens who had also acted a distinguished part, after the example of the renowned Cincinnatus, he retired to the domestic employments of rural life. But the signal talents with which he was endowed, were not long to lie dormant. He was soon called to the seat of national government as one of the representatives of Connecticut in Congress. The dignity with which he presided as Speaker of the House, and the acceptable manner in which he filled that honorable station, can be witnessed by

all who were then members, and be doubted by none acquainted with the amiable dignity of his character.

As chief magistrate of the State in which he resided, which high office he executed from the year 1798 to the time of his departure, he hath been enabled to act a part, honorable to himself and most acceptable and beneficial to the community. In times of trial he stood firm. Determined to pursue what he wisely judged to be the true interest of his country ; no obloquy or hazard to which he might be exposed could deter him from the faithful discharge of his duty.

In the several elevated stations in which he was called to act, what eminent servants of the public can be named who have discharged the duties of their respective offices with greater fidelity or more acceptably ? Such was his public character that a radiant glory shone around him, and his memory will be embalmed in the historic page to all future generations.

His private character was no less amiable and endearing, to his family, to a very extensive circle of dear and respectable friends and to all his acquaintance. Blessed with a placid natural temper, cultivated by a liberal and polite education, his manners were uniformly marked with an ease, a dignity, a cheerfulness, a winning affability peculiar to himself. His Excellency possessed the rare talent of rendering himself familiar and agreeable, to the high and the low, to the rich and the poor, to the learned and the unlearned, to the man of grey hairs and to the child of a few years ; without

detracting from the respectability due to his own character and exalted station. He condescended with dignity.

But what would avail his public usefulness and honor in the world, together with his peculiar endearments in the domestic and friendly circle, were we constrained to view him as an alien from the commonwealth of Israel? Were we not warranted in the judgment of charity, to consider him as an established believer in divine revelation, and as a cordial friend, an humble disciple and sincere follower of the blessed Jesus; with all his excellent endowments and endearing qualities, we should be painfully obliged to view him as lacking the one thing needful, as destitute of the image of his maker, as an enemy to the righteous government of Jehovah, and as plunged from his high station in this world into an unknown depth in the bottomless pit!

Descended from pious parents, who, we trust, are now with God, in early life he made a profession of religion and united in full communion with this church. His morals from his youth, thro' all the various and tempting scenes he was called to pass, were so pure, that the words of the text appear applicable to him in this respect with unusual propriety. When, even under great provocation, was he ever heard to utter a profane expression? When was he ever known to fall into a passion? Distinguished for easy polite behaviour, for condescension to all and for peculiar complaisance to his company, he knew where to draw the line; over which he would not deign to pass,

whatever might be the occasion, the custom or solicitation. For he well knew that in so doing he should sacrifice the honor due to the divine majesty to please a fellow worm.

The ordinances of the Lord's day and of public worship were ever treated by him with exemplary reverence. He wisely copied his illustrious parental example. On the day to be kept holy forever, so uniformly did he attend on the service of the sanctuary, that if ever his seat was vacant, it was taken for granted that he was either ill or absent from home. He was not an half-day hearer, or a late attendant, to the indulgence of the flesh and the disturbance of the assembly. As it was with the excellent father, so was it with the son. Rarely did the minister enter the house but he found Governor Trumbull in his seat.

In the removal of this worthy citizen, the needy and distressed have lost a friend and benefactor, whom they will exceedingly lament, whom they will long remember, and for whose liberal and repeated kindnesses, they will ever have occasion to bless God, who gave him both the ability and the disposition to afford relief.

Let us now survey for a few moments the closing scene. Mark the perfect man and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace. How peaceful, how serene, how tranquil, how submissive to the will of his heavenly Father was his deportment thro' the distressing illness of five weeks, which reduced his animal frame and terminated his earthly course! In that hour which emphatically

tries men's souls, witness ye who were with him by night and by day, did you know him to complain, to discover hard thoughts of God or any doubts respecting the glorious scheme of Christianity? Did not God's gracious covenant through Jesus Christ with penitent believing sinners, appear to be all his salvation and all his desire. You heard his weighty observations. You listened to his dying counsel. You noticed with delightful satisfaction and recollect with unspeakable consolation, the Christian fortitude with which he met the king of terrors, and the desire he expressed that Zion's king would hasten his chariot. Hence the dear afflicted partner, the bereaved children, and other near friends do by no means mourn on this occasion as they who have no hope: For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him.

If it will afford you any consolation, our dear respected sister, be assured this church and a very extensive circle of most respectable friends, sincerely sympathize with you. We feel your loss to be our loss. But we humbly trust it is the unspeakable gain of our departed friend. Our condolence however we must consider as only one stream of that inexhaustible fountain of consolation opened to you in the gospel. You need not be reminded that on this trying occasion it behoveth you to be still, since it is God who hath done it——hath done it, may we not hope, to make more room in your heart for himself? Yes, beloved sister, we trust your covenant God and Saviour, your divine head and husband, in your afflicted condi-

tion, will be better, infinitely better to you, than all earthly friends. While you sensibly feel the stroke and begin to realize the greatness of your loss, you will not be unmindful of the abundant reason you have to be thankful to your heavenly father, that you so long enjoyed, even from the early days of your youth, so amiable so worthy a friend. Few in the connubial state have been equally blessed. You will not be unmindful that the time of your own dissolution hastens upon you. As your Christian friends are called away one after another, you will be led more devoutly to contemplate those pure mansions, where the friends of the blessed Jesus, the excellent of the earth, are as the angels in heaven. Your affections being more weaned from all earthly objects, may you live more by faith, above the world; and when you shall be called to follow, after the example of your departed friend, cheerfully meet the summons.

The children of the deceased must be deeply impressed with a sense of their loss.

DEAR AND RESPECTED FRIENDS,

In proportion to the greatness of your loss is the fulness of your consolation. While you recollect the affectionate endearments, the amiable qualities and distinguished talents of your departed parent; with unfeigned gratitude will you render praise to God, who prolonged his life to a good old age, and who blessed you with so dear, so honorable, so valuable a friend. His example you will ever keep in view, and aim to follow him so far as he followed Christ. His wise instruction, his wholesome advice and especially his dying counsel, you will nev-

er forget. Faint not under the righteous rebuke, nor suffer a murmuring thought to arise in your heart. God hath done all things well. Look to your heavenly Father, that by the more copious communications of his blessed spirit he would supply the absence of the inestimable friend he hath removed. Prepare to follow.

“ Heaven gives us friends to bless the present state,

“ Recals them to prepare us for the next.

Faithfully employing the talents with which you are entrusted, in the service of your Lord, may you be sure of entering into his joy. There may you meet your dear christian friends who will severally have preceded you to glory. There may you meet all the dear redeemed and enjoy holy friendship without imperfection and without end.

A brother and a sister in the place with a brother remotely absent, together with other dear friends and relatives, on this solemn and affecting occasion, have also a claim upon our sympathy. Loudly admonished by this providence, of your own frailty, knowing that you must soon follow, may you be quickened in the discharge of every incumbent duty and give all diligence to make your calling and election sure. While in your domestic circles and daily walks you miss this dear brother, this most agreeable and instructive companion, you will severally reflect, “ Man giveth up the ghost and where is he ?” And where shall I soon be ? Do I entertain a comfortable hope that my departed brother, my respected friend, hath joined that august assembly, consisting of the church of the first born, together with myriads of holy angels ? Do I con-

template him as now associated with the renowned patriarchs, the holy prophets and the apostles of our Lord—with the witnesses of Jesus who have sealed the truth with their blood, and with all the excellent of the earth who have been collecting together in all ages of the world, never to be separated? O let me be prepared to join the same holy society. By a lively faith let me pierce the veil, live above the world, and may my end be the peace of the perfect man.

Come hither, ye great ones of the earth. Behold a war in which there is no discharge. See how the king of terrors levels all distinctions. “I have said ye are gods: and all of you children of the Most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.”

“Princes, this clay must be your bed

“In spite of all your towers,

“The tall, the wise, the reverend head,

“Must lie as low as ours.”

The fact is, every man is a sinner, and ever sinner is under sentence of death. Even those who are united unto the Saviour by a living faith, who are justified, who are sanctified, and who are to be eternally glorified, are not exempted. Should they be exempted, death would reveal the secrets of the invisible world. All, without regard to their moral character, must in like manner go down into the dust. But mark the perfect man and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace. To the believer in Jesus, death, the greatest of natural evils, is changed into a glorious benefit. To the believer, death is a friendly messenger, to call home the pilgrim and to put an end to his wearisome journey. Death releases him from a world of

trouble—from the body of this death. It opens the door into the celestial kingdom. It introduces him into the immediate beatific presence of the Divine majesty, of the exalted glorified Saviour, and of myriads of holy angels and spirits of just men made perfect. This earthly tabernacle of the believer is dissolved, not that it may lie forever in ruins; but that it may be rebuilt in a new form and be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body. Such is the end of the perfect man, the believer in Jesus, the child of light. *He* doth not make a leap in the dark. *His* soul is not perplexed with the gloomy apprehension of nonentity, or of existing he knows not where nor how. *He* knows in whom he has believed and that he is able to keep that which he hath committed to him against that day. He is acquainted with the society to which he is going. Nor is he a stranger to the nature of their joys and the felicity of their employment. *Be wise now therefore O ye kings: be instructed ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest he be angry and ye perish from the way when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.* Remember the words of the saviour, *Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT,

We are all called to mourning on this occasion. Nor since the death of the beloved father of his country, have we had cause for deeper lamentation. Our civil father, our political head is removed—removed in the midst of his usefulness. When we consider the distinguished, the eminently useful

part he hath acted, his tried patriotism, his willingness for the public good to encounter the obloquy of deluded or designing men ; we must be sensible that our loss is very great. In proportion however to the greatness of our loss, let it be remembered, is the reason we have to be thankful to the Lord our God that he raised him up, endowed him with such signal talents, and continued him thro' the heat of an arduous struggle. That he was not removed till the animosity of political party had begun to subside, till numbers, unhappily led astray, begun to have their eyes opened, and the state of our public affairs begun to assume a more favorable aspect ; is to be noticed with grateful acknowledgments to that all wise and merciful providence which hath preserved us hitherto.

While we lament that so much worth is forever removed from our country and from our world, let us remember and rejoice that with God is the residue of the spirit. When He removes the most illustrious instruments of usefulness, He is able to raise up others to supply their places. Should the Supreme ruler have occasion for another Washington, He will find no difficulty in providing one. And if another Trumbull be requisite for the accomplishment of the good we humbly trust He hath in store for his American Israel, he will also be found.


Fellow christians and fellow citizens, let us look to the God of our fathers and our Divine Redeemer. Let us put our trust in him and we need not fear. While the State at large, New-England and the United States, and all good men will deplore this death ; we, my brethren, the members of this

church and of this society, are more especially called to mingle our tears with theirs and with those of the afflicted family. Another of our elder, beloved and respected brethren is taken away from us. A pillar in the church and in the society, a firm and tried friend to good order in church and state, is removed. We deplore the loss of a wise counsellor in cases of difficulty, a noble benevolent spirit on charitable occasions, and a most pleasant, chearful, social friend. A tall cedar of Lebanon is now levelled with the lowly shrubs.

Brethren, we will not murmur. We will be thankful that we have been honored with so worthy a member. We will look to Him who is able to make men as great and as good as any who have hitherto existed. We will remember the gracious word our redeemer hath pledged to his people: *Because I live ye shall live also.*

Among us, the present year hath been remarkably distinguished, by an unusual scene of mortality in the latter part of winter and in the spring, by the death of this illustrious citizen, by the edifying session of the general association, and may I not add, with peculiar satisfaction and grateful praise, by a gracious visit of the king of Zion. May we all hear the voice thundering in our ears, calling upon us and saying, *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh.* And since the kingdom of God hath manifestly come nigh unto us, be it the care of every soul to secure his interest in it. So shall we secure the peaceful end of the perfect, the upright man and a happy meeting where christian friends shall be no more separated. AMEN.

By permission of the friends of Governor Trumbull, and of the author of the following piece of Biography, the Editors of the Connecticut Courant, present it to the public, connected with the foregoing Sermon.



THE family of TRUMBULL was among the early settlers in New-England. Their ancestor came from England in 1645, and fixed his residence at Ipswich in Massachusetts. His son, named John, removed and established himself at Suffield in Connecticut. He had three sons, John, Joseph and Benoni, whose descendants are still living in this state. Joseph settled at Lebanon, and at his death in 1755, left but one son, his Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, our former Governor.

Providence raised up that illustrious man to preside over the state, during a period of the greatest danger and distress; which required all the wisdom and firmness of the statesman, no less than the skill and intrepidity of the warrior. The revolutionary contest found him in office, to which he was first elected in 1766, and in which he was continued till his resignation in 1784, on the termination of the war by the establishment of American independence. He was one of our earliest and ablest patriots in the revolution.

The Government of Connecticut, though sub-

ordinate before that period, was ever independent in form. All its officers were elected by the people. Completely organized as a republic, and not forced to try the experiment of political theories, the revolution occasioned no change in our Constitution. The Governor was enabled, on all emergencies, to call forth the resources of the state, and to furnish assistance, both of troops and supplies, to the American army ; far beyond the exertions of many other States, superior in extent, wealth and population, but embarrassed by the opposition of crown-officers, and enfeebled by the want of legal authority. His unremitting vigor, activity and success, stand recorded in the pages of history, and have left a lasting impression on the hearts of the people.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, our late Governor, was the eldest surviving son of this venerable magistrate. He was born at Lebanon on the 26th of March 1740. His genius, docility and love of learning, appeared in his early years. At the age of fifteen, he was admitted a member of Harvard College ; and after completing his education, and receiving its honors in 1759, he left the university with a character, unblemished in morals, respectable for science, and peculiarly amiable in manners. He settled in his native place ; and in 1766 married Miss Eunice Backus, a young lady of a reputable family in Norwich, who survives to lament his loss, and console her sorrows by the recollection of his virtues.

He was soon called into public service. He was

an active and influential member of the State-legislature, as representative of the town of Lebanon, during several sessions before, and at the commencement of the American war. In 1775, he was appointed by Congress, Paymaster to the army in the Northern Department. He continued in that employment till the close of the campaign in 1778. Upon the death of his elder brother, Colonel Joseph Trumbull, Commissary general of the army of the United States, the care of settling his public accounts, and administering on his estate, having been committed to his trust, he resigned his office, and returned to his family at Lebanon. He was immediately re-elected to the legislature.

In 1780, he received the appointment of Secretary and first Aid to General Washington, in whose family he remained till the end of the war ; honored with the highest confidence and friendship of his Commander, and the esteem and affections of the army.

On the restoration of peace and establishment of our Independence, he enjoyed a short interval of retirement from the duties of public life ; happy in domestic society, and employed principally in his private concerns : till the embarrassment and confusions of the times again called for the services of every friend to his country ; and convinced the American people of the necessity of enlarging the powers of the general government, and placing the union on a firmer foundation.

In May 1788, he accepted a re-election to the

State-legislature, and was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. He retained that station in the subsequent sessions. In March 1789, he took his seat in the first Congress of the United States assembled under the new Constitution, as one of the representatives of the State of Connecticut. In that honourable assembly of patriots, destined to establish the government of a rising empire, provide by a code of laws for its internal regulation, and conduct its intercourse with foreign nations ; so important were his services, and so justly appreciated his talents, that on the meeting of the second Congress, holden in October 1791, he was, by a respectable majority of suffrages, chosen Speaker of their House of Representatives. At the sessions of our State-legislature in October 1794, he was appointed a Senator in Congress. He resigned that seat, on his election, in May 1796, to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the state of Connecticut. Upon the death of Governor Wolcott, he succeeded him in May 1798, as Governor of the State. He continued in that office during the remainder of his life ; annually elected by large majorities of the freemen for eleven successive years.

When we behold a character, so highly elevated in the opinion of his country ; a person, whom all classes of men, with whom he was at any time connected during a long life of public service, embraced every opportunity to honour by their suffrages, and commit to his trust the most important offices in their power to bestow ; our curiosity is naturally prompted to enquire, by what talents,

conduct and virtues he obtained such universal confidence and respect.

The disposition of his mind, and natural tendency of his genius, led him to endeavour more to be useful, than brilliant. He wished rather for esteem, than applause; and his talents were less showy, than solid. In public debate, he never attempted to dazzle the understanding by rhetorical allusions, nor to silence opposition by the pomp and splendor of eloquence. But he never failed to please by the gracefulness of his manner and elegance of his language, and commanded respect by propriety of argument, strength of judgment and extent of information.

He presided with peculiar felicity in deliberative assemblies. His polite attention, quickness of perception, and perfect acquaintance with the rules of proceeding, facilitated the transaction of business; while with graceful dignity he regulated debate, and softened the asperity of parties.

In private society his manners were peculiarly attractive. He appeared in the friendly circle with the look of cheerfulness, the smile of philanthropy, and the eye that sparkled with vivacity and intelligence. Accustomed to the best company, and skilled in all the politeness of the gentleman, he could adapt his discourse, with great facility, to the inclinations, topics and understanding of all classes of people: aiming rather to acquire, than to display information; not to dictate in opinion; but to obtain advantage from the knowledge and

experience of age, and amusement from the innocent gaieties of youth; to promote the rational and elegant pleasures of life, and the satisfaction of every social party, that was favored by his presence. He never attempted to engross conversation; nor sought admiration by brilliance of fancy, or ostentation of learning and argument. He never affected to shine, and he never failed to please.

Of punctuality in attendance on business, in the exact performance of his engagements, and in all his dealings with mankind; and of faithfulness in the prompt execution of every trust committed to his charge; he afforded an uncommon example. The duties and labors of every day were entered upon in regular order, and finished by its close, without hurry, confusion or embarrassment. Every account was adjusted, and all public correspondence answered in season. None could ever accuse him, for delay or disappointment, and none ever went justly dissatisfied from his presence.

He excelled in all the duties of social life; as the consort, the parent, the neighbour and the friend; as the generous patron of merit, the kind benefactor of the distressed, and the liberal encourager of every public institution, and every useful improvement.

The enterprising ambition and political art of the statesman, the bold imagination of the orator, who rules the fate of kingdoms by his eloquence, and the intrepidity of the hero, rendered invincible by success, dazzle the eyes of the multitude with sur-

prize and admiration, and afford the most brilliant themes of biographical eulogy. But strength of judgment and an enlightened understanding, the steady exertions of friendship and patriotism, and the virtues of a heart, regulating all its conduct by the principles of justice, morality and religion, can alone form the man of true greatness of character, and value in society. A benevolence, which all must love, and a sacred regard to honor, on which all may securely rely, can alone obtain and long preserve the esteem and confidence of the public. After a course of experience, such esteem ripens into the ardor of affection, and the long-tried confidence becomes universal and unlimited.

During the interesting period, in which he held the chief magistracy of the State, his virtues commanded the highest respect, and awed the clamors of prejudice and opposition. In times when calumny assailed every man conspicuous in rank, and exposed with malignant invective, the faults and failings of every public character; his political adversaries, though they opposed and censured the measures of his administration, never attempted to call in question the rectitude of his intentions, or to fix a stain upon his reputation.

This State has been the subject of admiration and applause, for the steadiness, with which it hath repelled the revolutionary efforts of party spirit, and withstood the delusions of visionary policy and jacobinical principles. Much of this merit is to

be ascribed to Governor TRUMBULL. No person perhaps could have maintained his seat during that stormy period, when the violence of faction was openly encouraged, and all government shaken to the centre, but a man of his peculiar talents, and moderation : a man, who united the active vigilance and immovable firmness of the statesman, to the mildest affability of deportment, and most conciliating popularity of manners.

When, upon the determination of the American Cabinet to compel obedience to the embargo by military force, the Secretary at War, by the direction of the President of the United States, applied to him, as Commander in Chief of the militia of this state, and requested him to appoint some officer at each port of entry, with orders, on every application of the collector of the district, to assemble immediately a sufficient force of the troops under his command, and employ them efficaciously in maintaining the authority of the laws, respecting the embargo ; on mature consideration he declined a compliance, and refused to contribute his agency to the appointments. He declared his opinion, that the law of Congress for the more rigorous enforcement of the embargo was, in many of its provisions, unconstitutional ; interfering with the powers reserved to the State-sovereignties, endangering the peace, property and safety of the community, and subversive of the rights, privileges and immunities of the people : and that neither the constitution nor statutes of the United States, or of Connecticut, had given authority to the Presi-

dent to call on the executive of the State to make such appointments, nor to the commander in chief of the militia to issue such orders to his subordinate officers, and place them under the controul and direction of the district-collectors of the revenue. His answer on that occasion affords ample proof of his wisdom as a statesman, and his decision as a magistrate ; and demonstrates that, however in his general conduct he might wish to conciliate all parties, he pursued no middle or dubious line of action ; and that no cautious timidity, nor dread of censure, could deter him from performing what he esteemed his duty, or from asserting the rights of the state and people, over whom he presided. At this important crisis of national danger, he convoked an extraordinary session of our state-legislature in February 1809. His speech at the opening of that assembly, with their resolves, expressing the warmest approbation of his conduct, and declaring their decided opinion of the ruinous impolicy of the embargo, and the unconstitutionality of the laws enacted for its enforcement, have been long before the public. The general union of sentiment on this subject, in the northern and the other commercial States, had a decisive influence in procuring a change in that system of measures, and a repeal of those obnoxious laws.

Again elected by an unexampled majority of suffrages, Governor Trumbull presided, at the sessions in May 1809, with his usual dignity, and an increase of public favor and esteem. Thousands,

who before this period only respected him as a magistrate, and loved him as a man, now regarded him with veneration, as the most able guardian of the rights and independence of the State.

This was the closing scene of his political life. He had for many months perceived the symptoms of declining health and internal debility: but retained his wonted activity and cheerfulness, and concealed all melancholy forebodings from his friends. In the beginning of July, he was attacked by a disorder, which it was beyond the power of medicine to relieve, and which eventually terminated in death. It was a dropsy of the heart.

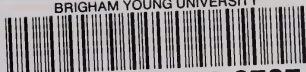
Such was the nature of his disorder, as to leave his mind perfectly clear, amid the severest paroxysms of bodily distress; and to enable him, for four successive weeks, during which every day was expected to be his last, to exhibit an example of fortitude and cheerfulness under suffering, of pious hope and christian resignation, never to be exceeded, and of which, few instances have ever been recorded.

He was convinced from the first that his disease was mortal. Yet in the constant view of speedy dissolution, and under the agonies of expiring nature, the serenity of his mind never forsook him for a moment. He conversed, not only with composure but satisfaction, on the subject of his approaching death; administering counsel and comfort to his surrounding friends, and with tender

affection, endeavouring to reconcile his distressed family to the thoughts of the parting hour. He expressed his firm reliance on the divine mercy, through the merits of the christian atonement; and declared that from the consolations of religion he experienced a hope, which he would not resign for the wealth of worlds. With pious sensibility and patriotic ardor, he implored blessings on his country, his family and friends; and with patient expectation awaited the final instant, when he should exchange the frailties and miseries of mortal life, for the eternal happiness, holiness and society of the blest.

He expired on the 7th day of August 1809. His death spread a general gloom, and filled the public mind with deep anxiety and regret. His funeral was attended by a concourse of gentlemen of the first rank and character, with a solemnity never before witnessed in the state. Patriotism and friendship wept over his bier: Party forgot its opposition and asperity, and united to honor the sepulture of his remains.

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